Unit Three
Equality

3.1 The Importance of Equality among Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia

Equality

- Is the right not to be treated differently because of age, race, sex, ability, political views or any other status; it means being treated the same as others.
- It is a broad concept that involves economic political, social and cultural considerations.
- It can be a form of remedial or restorative justice to repair damages done in the past.
- It can be seen as a process of undoing past inequalities or injustices. This could lead to greater uniformity among members of society in terms of equality.
- In today's world, the issue of equality has gained huge political importance.
- It has attracted the attention of governments as a key to ensuring internal stability, peace and development.
- In the broader sense, equality means to extend equal opportunities for members of society.
- Equality, in the main refers to opportunities that the state extends to its people.
- It also means equal protection and the rights given to all citizens

3.2 The History of the Ethiopian Peoples' Struggle against Oppression

The highest proportion of the Ethiopian population were peasants, they were severely exploited. They were forced to pay heavy taxes and their feudal lords,

- Government officials took most of what they produced.

- Suffered from maladministration,
- Suffered from corruption and
- Suffered from lack of social services.

They did not remain indifferent to their hardships, but revolted against the injustice done to them in different ways. The peasants' rebellions in Gojam, Bale and Tigray are very good examples.

1. The Gojam Peasant Rebellion (1950_1968)

⇒ One of the strongest resistances against the feudal government.

⇒ The centers of the rebellion were ***Mota and Dega Damot*** provinces. The major causes of the rebellion were

- The government's attempt to increase the amount of taxes
- Forced contributions to erect a statue of the emperor.
- Maladministration.

The people reflected their opposition by rejecting tax assessors and sending a petition to the emperor. When the government failed to respond, the peasants rebelled. The government sent the army and police force and suppressed the rebellion.

2. The Bale Peasant Rebellion / 1963 _1970 /It caused by

- Religious discriminations
- Ethnic animosity and
- Increased taxes by the Northerners.
- It encouraged by Somalia propaganda.
- It started in Elkere lead by General Waqo Guttu.
- In 1970 the imperial supported by the British suppressed it.

3. The First Woyane Movement

The first Woyane movement took place in Tigray immediately after the liberation of Ethiopia from the Italian occupation (1941).The major causes were:

- Administrative inefficiency,
- Corruption and

- Greediness of the army stationed in Raya and Azabo
- Feudalistic conflicts of interest.

The rebels achieved some victories at the beginning such as at Addi Abun in Temben in 1943. Then they controlled towns such as Enda Eyesus, Kwiah and Mekele. But eventually, the government army and the British forces using aircraft crushed the revolt.

4. The Outbreak of the Ethiopian Revolution

The Ethiopian Revolution of 1974 was a result of the combined effects of the various peasant uprisings and other movements such as the Ethiopian students' movement which strongly challenged the Haile Selassie government in the 1960's and 1970's. They were involved in demonstrations with slogans such as "***Land to the Tiller***!" The government tried to suppress the students' movement by arresting its leaders and banning demonstrations. However, the students continued their struggle. Their movement eventually was supported by other sectors of the population such as the taxi drivers. This led to the outbreak of the Ethiopian Revolution in 1974.

Though the Ethiopian students played the major role to bring about the end of the regime, it was the committee of military officers called the ***Derg*** that controlled political power. The Derg declared, "Land to the Tiller" in 1975, but it did not bring a democratic system to the country. Rather, it controlled and exercised unlimited power suppressed oppositions and established a single party system. Because of this, the peoples of Ethiopia started fighting against the Derg.

5. The Second Woyane Movement (1975- 1991)

- The movement was officially launched in 1975 at Dedebit, Western Tigray, with the name Hizbawi Woyane Harnet Tigray, or Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF).

- It offered a strong resistance against the Derg, and started gaining victories in the last years of 1980s. TPLF gained a decisive victory over the Derg forces in Shire in 1989.
- Then TPLF and other parties founded Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) to fight the Derg in well organized way. The parties that formed EPRDF were
  - Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF),
  - Ethiopian Peoples Democratic Movement (EPDM),
  - Oromo People Democratic Organization (OPDO) and
  - Ethiopian Democratic Officers Revolutionary Movement (EDORM).

The EPRDF forces eventually defeated and removed the Derg from power in 1991. This led to the transition to democratic rule in the country.

3.3 The Individual and the Public Interest

Equality

- Means treating people as equals regardless of sex, race, religion, culture, nationality or occupation.
- Is related to rights.
- Your rights entitle you to be treated equally to others.
- However, exercising your equality has limitations as the use of your rights can be conditioned by your obligations.
- As expressed in the Constitution, you have freedom of speech, and expressions.
- You have equal rights to participate in the extracurricular activities in your school. You might want to join the schools basketball and football teams, but you may have to pass a physical examination first.
- Equality must be viewed in terms of extending equal opportunity to compete, but not deserving whatever you wish.

- Your personal interests are protected only to the extent that the interest of the public is not adversely affected.
- Therefore, you might have to give up some of your individual rights in order to promote what benefits society. Generally speaking, public interests should precede individual rights.

3.4 Conflict of Interests

Group rights

Are rights held by individuals who are members of a particular group.
An example of a commonly asserted group right is the right of a nation or a people to self-determination.
Are also different from human rights because they are not universal to all human beings.
Are considered as an instrument to facilitate the realization of equality. Some groups, such as women, the disabled, ethnic minorities and children, need special protective rights if their members are to enjoy human rights on equal terms with other groups of people.

It may aim at ensuring freedom from discrimination, or realizing equal opportunity, or attempting to redress inequality.

Many countries have provided group rights to support or protect disadvantaged groups. After the end of the Apartheid system in South Africa, the South African government sought to redress the inequalities which prevailed during the Apartheid period. It favored the disadvantaged groups such as blacks, colored people and Indians by providing economic opportunities which were not previously available to them.

The Ethiopian context: The FDRE Constitution provides group rights. It provides for every Nation, Nationality and People in Ethiopia the right to self-determination, including the right to secession. One aspect of self-determination is that every Nation, Nationality and People has the right to speak, to write and to develop their language.

This is aimed at reversing the linguistic and nationality policy of the previous governments of Ethiopia, which discouraged the use and development of languages other than the official language of the time. The right to self-determination includes the right of every Nation, Nationality and People:

- To express, develop and promote its culture;
- To preserve ts history;
- To the right to self-governance.

3.5 Gender Issues and Socially Discriminated Groups

Gender issues: refer to determined patterns of behavior in relation to rights, duties, obligations and responsibilities assigned to females and males in society. The cultural differences in a society shape how gender issues are viewed and handled. The history of human society, for the most part, is marked by unfair treatment for women.
Women in Ethiopia are often denied the same rights that men enjoy.

In the past women were

- Denied the right to own and inherit land and other properties.
- They had no right to decide who to marry and live with.
- They were subject to circumcision, early marriage, abduction and domestic violence.

At present, women have the same legal rights as men.

- They have constitutional protection to enjoy their rights.
- They have equal access to education, jobs and health care and
- They also have freedom of expression and the right to form an association.

More female students are in schools and universities now than in the past. They are assuming ministerial positions; and given the opportunity, they can make higher decisions, alongside their male counterparts.

Through *affirmative action*, today women in Ethiopia are enjoying many advantages. This helped women to experience positive discrimination to compensate them for past injustices. In this regard, female and male students can join universities with different cumulative grade point average requirements. Like in education, some jobs, through affirmative action, give priority to females.

A new family law has been issued to protect women's rights in marriage and divorce. These are positive developments that have empowered women. Empowering women means empowering society as a whole. Women are the backbone of society and women's empowerment is one of the cornerstones of social justice. The development of a country is achieved when all women are treated fairly and equally to men.

The development of Ethiopia requires addressing the equality of disabled groups as much as gender issues. These are citizens who are physically and mentally impaired and who need special treatment. Schools, workplaces, shops, hotels, transportation services and even roads need to be constructed to handle them. Communities should give attention to the disabled members to support them. They deserve special attention because they are part of the society to be sympathized and cared for. They have a right to be able to access the same things as those who are able bodied

3.6 Equality and the Notion of Affirmative Action

Affirmative action refers to policies designed to remedy the effects of past discrimination against women, the disabled, racial groups, religious and ethnic minorities, therefore, it is important to compensate for past injustice and discrimination. Many counties have practiced affirmative action to redress past discrimination and injustice. Affirmative action has been practiced in the United States

where blacks, Native Americans, women and other minority groups suffered from discrimination. Affirmative actions were aimed at:

- increasing employment opportunities for minorities;
- taking positive steps to insure that employees were not discriminated
- providing extra advantage and opportunities to enroll blacks, native Americans and women in colleges and universities;
- Providing financial assistance to students from minority groups who could not afford to attend colleges.

These kinds of assistance helped members of the disadvantaged groups to achieve more in education and the world of work. Many people agree that affirmative action is important to remedy past discrimination. However, there are people who consider affirmative action unjust. There are people who argue that affirmative actions go against the principle of equality. Some people consider affirmative action as reverse discrimination and, therefore, Women have historically suffered from discrimination in many parts of the world. Women have also suffered from discrimination and injustice in Ethiopia. Though women play a crucial role in the family and at the community level, their contribution was undermined. ***Women***

- Did not have the right to own land and other non-movable assets.
- Did not have the right to inherit family assets such as land.
- Were regarded as second-class citizens at a national level too.
- Were denied the right to have equal opportunities in education.

The FDRE's Constitution *Article 35 (3)*:

- Gives much attention to equality between women and men.
- Recognizes that women suffered from injustice and discrimination
- Entitles them to remedial and affirmative actions in order to compensate past mistakes

The purpose of affirmative action is to enable women to have equal participation with men in the economic, social and political life of the country. On the basis of the Constitution, the current government of Ethiopia has given much attention to women in many ways.

1. It has expanded the educational opportunities for women at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education.
2. The number of female students enrolled at different levels, including at the college level, is continuing to increase.

3.7 The Tendency to Negate Unity in Diversity

Unity in diversity is all about the mutual existence of different cultural groups. Societies, having such diversity, are called **multicultural** societies and countries consisting of such compositions are ***multicultural nations***. The political doctrine that upholds this way of life is termed ***multiculturalism***.

- It means living together to respect others' languages, religions and ways of life.
- This is based on the belief that all cultures, religions and languages are equal, thus everyone deserves to be treated equally.
- A multicultural society exists in peace as long as all its members display mutual respect for one another.

Ethiopia is a multicultural and multi ethnic country with over eighty ethnic groups inhabiting its territories. Today they are classified as nations, nationalities and peoples. They have constitutionally protected rights of equality. No one group is superior, as no group is inferior. All, big or small, have equal rights to protect, advance and promote the development of their cultural distinctions. Ethiopia is as different as its cultural and ethnic groups are different. Its unity can be expressed through the unity that its ethno-cultural groups forge among themselves with a shared purpose and objectives.

3.8 Unity in Diversity

Countries such as India, China, Nigeria and the United States of America have a wide range of diversities. For instance, there are more than two hundred fifty ethnic groups in Nigeria. About 114 languages and 216 dialects are spoken in India. Diversity does not stop these countries from achieving rapid economic development.

Ethiopia is also a country of religious, linguistic and other cultural diversities. Though we have many cultural groups, and despite our diversity, we still need to create a common political and economic space and work together in the fight against poverty and backwardness. **Since unity is strength, this will help us**

- Promote our common interests in a better way,
- Maintaining equality and recognizing our diversities.

The tendency of considering the cultures of other people inferior is called **ethnocentrism.** Ethnocentrism is the use of one's culture for judging the life styles of other individuals or societies that leads to a negative evaluation of their values, norms and behaviors. As a result of ethnocentrism, many European travelers and writers regarded African societies as ignorant, backward and primitive, though the reality is far from this.

An ethnocentric individual

- Someone who is unable or unwilling to look at other cultures in their own terms.
- He or she fails to understand the true qualities of other cultures. Such a person, taking his religion as a point of reference, may consider the religious practices of others as backward, primitive or even threatening.

These kinds of judgments may lead to serious conflicts and bloodshed. You have to avoid ridiculing others because of their language, religion, cultural dances or dress. Rather try to understand the culture

of others from their perspective. Anthropologists call this approach of understanding cultures, *cultural relativism.*

Cultural relativism

- Refers to understanding people's ways of living from the framework of their culture.
- It is the way of understanding culture in its own terms.
- is a belief that any particular set of customs, values and norms are relative to a particular culture and that they can only be understood and
- Use to compare cultures and understand why people in different cultures live somewhat differently.

Cultural relativism has the following major advantages:

- It helps us to be less arrogant and more open minded in relation to other societies and cultures.
- It helps us to understand and appreciate ate the culture of other peoples.
- It minimizes misunderstandings and conflicts related to cultural diversity.

Unit Three Review Questions

Part I. –Multiple choices

1. Which one of the following groups does not demand equal treatment with others?
   A. Nations C. People
   B. Nationalities D. None
2. Affirmative action may not be needed in Ethiopia only for one of the following.
   A. women
   B. minority groups
   C. groups whose language is on the verge of vanishing
   D. None of the above
3. Unity in diversity does **not** mean one of the following:
   A. treating ethnic groups equality
   B. treating all regions as equals
   C. be willing to work with others having different viewpoints
   D. to accept that some societies are superior to others
4. Which of the peasant revolts was destroyed by the joint actions of the Ethiopian government and a British force?
   A. the Bale peasant rebellion
   B. the Gojam peasant rebellion
   C. the First Woyane movement
   D. the Second Woyane movement
5. Government can best be defined as
   A. The institution and procedures by which a piece of territory and its people are ruled
   B. The set of political principles and values that guide political life
   C. The legalized theft of others property
   D. The invisible hand that turns private interests into public goods

6. Which of the following is true about ethnocentrism?
   A. Ethnocentrism is the tendency to evaluate cultures in their own terms.
   B. Strong ethnocentrism may lead to conflicts between different cultural groups.
   C. Ethnocentrism is a tendency to consider one's culture or religion superior to that of others.
   D. Ethnocentrism does not allow us to understand the true qualities of other cultures.
7. Which of the following does **not** go with group rights?
   A. the right to self-determination
   B. the right to the child to learn in his/her mother tongue
   C. The right to develop one's culture
   D. the right to self governance
8. Which one of following is true of culture and religion in Ethiopia?
   A. Democracy recognizes people's rights to be culturally different
   B. There is no basic difference among peoples of Ethiopia in custom, belief and tradition
   C. The people of Ethiopia has the same culture from others
   D. Religions that have large number of followers are superior to those that have few Worshipers
9. Which one of the following is true about gender equality?
   A. It refers to the protection of women's rights irrespective of anything
   B. It is concerned with the introduction of discriminations based on sex
   C. It means respecting the right of women and men without discrimination
   D. It restricts the right to vote to adult female citizens

10. The concept of equality in democratic society is more explained by the statement
    A. People should be classified by sex and race to give them identical treatment of rights
    B. People of the same level of status should be treated the same way in benefits and burdens
    C. Human beings are equal by nature and shall not be discriminated on any ground
    D. Every person has equal rights irrespective of his/her capacity or needs
11. Which of the following practices considered as a violation of women's human right?
    A. Marriage concluded under religious laws
    B. breast-feeding
    C. Female genital mutilation
    D. marriage concluded under customary laws
12. If benefits and burdens are not distributed to all Ethiopians in an equal manner, the final outcome could be
    A. Growth of urban centers at the expense of rural areas
    B. Social unrest caused by dissatisfaction
    C. Rural development at the expense of urban areas
    D. social and economic development
13. According to our constitution which one of the following correctly describes affirmative measure
    A. Temporary actions are taken to make up for the inequalities and discriminations of women suffered in the past
    B. Actions are undertaken to build capacity in women so that they can participate more than men
    C. Special attention is given to women to reduce the participation of men in all sphere of life
    D. Long lasting actions are taken to discriminate between men and women

14. According to the FDRE constitution the right to self determination gives nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia all except one of the following? Which one?

A. The right to establish institutions of government in their territory
B. The right to speak, write and develop their language
C. The right to decide over internal affairs of their neighboring people
D. The right to promote their culture and to preserve their history

15. By redressing past injustices, it is possible to bring about equality to all citizens through
A. Affirmative action
B. social stratification based on status
C. Discrimination based on race
D. segregation based on religion

Part II – Matching

"A"	"B"
16. *Affirmative action*	A. considering the cultures of other inferior
17. Ethnocentrism	B. approach of understanding cultures.
18. *Cultural relativism*	C. belief that all cultures are equal
19. *Multiculturalism*	D. Ethiopian students' movement
20. *Land to the Tiller*	E. compensate for past injustice

Part III True or false

21. Disabled groups in society need special attention.
22. Equality means to demand anything and get it.
23. Ethiopia is a country where there are no gender issues.
24. Gender equality means replacing male dominance by female dominance.
25. Socially discriminated groups have the same rights as others

Unit Four
Justice

4.1 Fairness

4.1.1 *Benefits*

- Are services or commodities that are believed to be good for an individual or group.
- Are provided by the government to help the people include welfare payments paid to people who don't have a job or welfare activities done for street children.
- People also do things that are beneficial for themselves.
- Most countries it is a service that supports those people in need and usually the government provides these benefits.
- In the United Kingdom, for example, the word 'benefit' refers to welfare payments from the government to the people.

4.1.2 Burdens

- The responsibilities that you have.
- In order to get benefits, there are expectations that are required of you. Activities that require more than one person, involve sharing the responsibility when undertaking the activities.
- It also be seen as the contribution of each individual in the achievement of something. If only certain people are doing everything yet everybody is sharing the benefits, it is not fair.
- The people shouldering the entire burden will be exploited and the people who didn't participate are unfairly being benefited.
- Everybody should benefit according to his/her contribution to an activity.
- The exceptions should be those people who are unable to contribute like the elderly and sick or disabled people.